

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-04  
MCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 HA-05 COME-00 OMB-01  
IO-13 /087 W

-----088209 131029Z /15

R 130848Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7409  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL MEDAN  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA  
USIA WASHDC  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 3268

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN  
SUBJECT: SPORADIC INCIDENTS IN JAKARTA MARK OPENING OF MPR

REF: JAKARTA 3124 (DTG 090922Z MAR 78)

1. SUMMARY. THERE WERE SPORADIC, SMALL-SCALE ANTI-GOVERN-  
MENT DEMONSTRATIONS, SPEARHEADED BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS,  
THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND IN JAKARTA. EACH DEMONSTRATION  
WAS PROMPTLY DISPERSED BY SECURITY FORCES, TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF  
WARNING SHOTS AND, ACCORDING TO SOME UNCONFIRMED RUMORS, FATAL  
INJURIES TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR BYSTANDERS. THE PUBLIC,  
ESPECIALLY THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY, IS INCREASINGLY  
APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION, BUT WE  
CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT WILL PREVENT ANY LARGE-  
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SCALE BREAKDOWN IN ORDER. END SUMMARY.

2. TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE MPR SESSION, HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS OVER THE WEEKEND STAGED A SERIES OF SMALL BUT  
LOCALLY DISRUPTIVE DEMONSTRATIONS AT SCATTERED SITES  
THROUGHOUT JAKARTA. THE LARGEST DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK  
PLACE THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 10, WHEN STUDENTS AT FIVE

HIGH SCHOOLS SUCCEEDED IN SNARLING RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC IN THE VICINITY OF THEIR SCHOOLS WHILE THEY PASSED OUT PAMPHLETS AND, ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS, LAY IN THE STREETS. POLICE AND SECURITY TROOPS MOVE IN QUICKLY ON THE APPARENTLY COORDINATED DEMONSTRATIONS, FIRING WARNING SHOTS AND AT TIMES ROUGHLY DISPERSING THE DEMONSTRATORS. SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS, ON A SOMEWHAT SMALLER SCALE, WERE REPEATED ON MARCH 11-12, WITH SIMILAR RESULTS. THERE ARE WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT A NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN OR BYSTANDERS TO THE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE FATALLY INJURED, EITHER BY SHOTS OR BAYONET ATTACKS FROM TROOPS. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO EVIDENCE TO DATE TO CONFIRM ANY DEATHS.

3. BOTH KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADM. SUDOMO AND JAKARTA (KODAM V) MILITARY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. NORMAN SASONO PUBLICLY DESCRIBED THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' ACTIONS AS "SUBVERSIVE" AND PROMISED A CONTINUATION OF TOUGH GOVERNMENT REACTION. SUDOMO SAID THAT ABOUT 100 PEOPLE HAD BEEN ARRESTED SO FAR IN JAKARTA IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT HIGH SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES, ADDING THAT THE NUMBER IN DETENTION AT ANY ONE TIME IS "FLUID" SINCE ARRESTS AND RELEASES CONTINUE. HE THREATENED LONG JAIL TERMS FOR THOSE INCITING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE. NORMAN, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SOME STUDENTS WERE INJURED WHEN SECURITY FORCES BROKE UP THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMONSTRATIONS, DENIED THAT ANY DEATHS HAD RESULTED OR THAT HIS TROOPS HAD USED BAYONETS. BOTH SUDOMO AND NORMAN DOWN-PLAYED AN EARLIER, OFF-THE-CUFF COMMENT BY A KODAM V SPOKESMAN THAT TROOPS HAD BEEN GIVEN AN ORDER TO "SHOOT ON THE SPOT" ANY DEMONSTRATORS. SUDOMO, WHILE NOT DENYING THAT STATEMENT, SAID IT REPRESENTED A "WARNING, NOT POLICY."

4. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY DEMONSTRATIONS OR TROUBLE ON ANY UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN JAKARTA OR BANDUNG OVER THE WEEKEND, THOUGH STUDENT STRIKES CONTINUE. SUDOMO ANNOUNCED ON SATURDAY THAT KOPKAMTIB HAS REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE THAT ANY STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN ANY ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATION, INCLUDING AN ACADEMIC STRIKE, WILL BE SUSPENDED. HE ALSO SAID THAT ABOUT 250 STUDENTS INITIALLY ARRESTED DURING THE LATE JANUARY SECURITY CRACKDOWN ARE STILL BEING HELD. HE ESTIMATED THAT 50 OF THEM ARE THE REAL RINGLEADERS AND WILL BE TRIED IN COURT, PROBABLY UNDER THE SUBVERSION LAWS. ANOTHER 150, WHOM SUDOMO DESCRIBED AS "BLIND FOLLOWERS," WILL BE RELEASED SOON. THE REMAINING 50, WHILE NOT CATEGORIZED BY THE KOPKAMTIB

CHIEF, ARE PRESUMABLY STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE  
THE EXTENT OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN DISSIDENT ACTIVITY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 3268

5. THE DAILY BERITA BUANA ON MARCH 11 CARRIED AN INTER-  
VIEW WITH SEVEN JAKARTA COLLEGE STUDENTS RELEASED THE  
DAY BEFORE FROM DETENTION FOR DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES. THE  
STUDENTS, WHO WERE HELD AT AN UNSPECIFIED DETENTION  
CENTER IN THE CAPITAL CITY WHICH THEY HAD NICKNAMED THE  
"YELLOW CAMPUS," SAID THEY HAD BEEN WELL TREATED WHILE  
UNDER ARREST, LIVING THREE-TO-A-HOUSE IN A LARGE COMPOUND.  
THEY WERE UNWILLING TO DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES WITH  
BERITA BUANA BUT DID NOTE THAT THEIR COLLEAGUES STILL  
IN DETENTION AT THE "YELLOW CAMPUS" INTENDED TO BEGIN  
A HUNGER STRIKE MARCH 11 TO "ENCOURAGE THE SUCCESS" OF  
THE MPR. THE NATIONALIST, OFTEN RAMBUNCTIOUS MERDEKA,  
INCIDENTALLY, IN ITS MARCH 13 EDITION, PROVIDED MUTED  
BUT FIRST HAND COVERAGE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT  
DEMONSTRATIONS IN JAKARTA OVER THE WEEKEND. THIS IS THE  
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FIRST TIME ANY PAPER HAS CHANCED TO REPORT DIRECTLY ON STUDENT ACTIVITIES (RATHER THAN QUOTING GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN) SINCE THE JANUARY 20 CRACKDOWN ON THE PRESS.

6. COMMENT. THE JAKARTA PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY THE FOREIGN BUSINESS COMMUNITY, IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION. SOME AMERICANS WITNESSED OR HEARD FIRST HAND ACCOUNTS OF THE LOCALIZED DISRUPTION IN JAKARTA OVER THE WEKEND, AND THE RUMOR MILL AS A RESULT IS VERY ACTIVE. BASED ON OUR CONTINUING ESTIMATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN AND WILL SUCCEED IN PREVENTING ANY WIDESPREAD BREAKDOWN OF ORDER IN THE COMING WEEKS, WE ARE URGING MODERATION AND REASONABLE CAUTION ON THE PRIVATE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. SMALL-SCALE DISRUPTIONS, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY TO PERSIST IN JAKARTA, AND PUBLIC NERVOUSNESS ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL GROW.  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014